AILY BULLETIN

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BUSH RADIO ADDRESS HIGHLIGHTS U.S. ANTI-TERROR DEFENSES

Increased security with vigilance, planning, information sharing

President Bush said that, in response to the nation's heightened terrorist alert, "our government at every level is responding to this threat, working to track down every lead and standing watch 24 hours a day against terrorism."

In his weekly radio address to the nation on February 15, 2003, Bush said that the Department of Homeland Security has issued new strategic plans to protect critical infrastructure such as dams, power plants, computer networks, and communication systems.

Following is the transcript of President Bush's Radio Address to the Nation for February 15, 2003:

The White House Office of the Press Secretary February 15, 2003

Good morning. Last week the national terrorist threat level was raised to "high." This is primarily a signal to federal, state, and local law enforcement to take additional precautions and increase security measures against potential terrorist attacks. Raising the threat level also informs the general public to be more alert to their surroundings and prepared for possible emergencies in the event of an attack.

Americans should go about their lives. And for those seeking specific guidance on how to be more vigilant,

I encourage you to visit the Department of Homeland Security website at DHS.gov.

These recent threats are a stark reminder that our country remains engaged in a war on terror. Our enemies are still determined to attack America, and there is no such thing as perfect security against a hidden network of killers. Yet, I assure you that our government at every level is responding to this threat, working to track down every lead and standing watch 24 hours a day against terrorism.

This past week, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge issued strategic plans to protect our critical infrastructure. These plans will guide local officials in securing our nation's dams and power plants, electrical goods, computer networks and communication systems.

Our effort to safeguard the homeland includes tighter security at the borders and ports of entry. We have posted more than 50,000 newly trained federal screeners at airports. We have begun inoculating troops and first responders against smallpox. We are deploying the nation's first early warning network of sensors to detect biological attack. And we are moving to better coordinate the efforts of law enforcement

This week at FBI Headquarters, I spoke to some of the fine men and women who are leading our anti-terrorism efforts in law enforcement and intelligence. The FBI, CIA, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Defense are working together as never before to assemble and analyze the threat information so we can act before our enemies can strike us.

We are gathering the best information possible, and using it to make sure the right people are in the right places to protect our citizens. Throughout the country, joint terrorism task forces are bringing together federal, state and local officials to fight terrorism. The FBI is expanding its terrorist identification system, so that 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies will be able to identify known or suspected terrorists almost immediately. Local police will be able to access federal terrorist information from their squad cars to determine whether individuals they have pulled over or detained have terrorist links.

I've also asked Congress to fill a critical need in our defense against bioterror by committing almost \$6 billion to quickly make available effective vaccines and treatments against agents like smallpox, anthrax, botulinum toxin, Ebola and plague.

Our nation is preparing for a variety of threats we hope never will arrive. Many of these dangers are unfamiliar and unsettling. Yet the best way to fight these dangers is to anticipate them, and act against them with focus and determination. This vigilance is a fundamental responsibility of your government, and we are fulfilling that duty in every way we can.

In the fight against terror, the American people are resolute. We will persevere, and we will prevail.

Thank you for listening.

POWELL SAYS U.S. OPEN TO 2ND U.N. RESOLUTION ON IRAQ DISARMAMENT

Interview with CNN in New York February 14

Secretary of State Colin Powell says a second UN Security Council resolution calling for the disarmament of Iraq "would once again express the intent of the Security Council that Iraq come into compliance" and if Iraq still has not complied, Iraq would face "serious consequences."

In a 14 February interview on CNN, Powell added that President Bush has made clear that "in the absence of a second resolution, if Iraq still has not disarmed, then the United States is willing to lead a coalition of nations that would be willing to join the United States in the disarmament."

Powell noted that in his judgment, Iraq still has not expressed an understanding of Resolution 1441 and are "not taking it seriously."

"We see a lot of process. We see people showing up for interviews who have tape recorders. Guess where a copy of that tape is going. Do you think anybody is going to honestly answer questions with a tape recorder that they have to come out of that building and give the tape to who -- their minder?" questioned Powell.

Powell added, "We need to do a better job of getting people into an environment where they can speak honestly and truthfully, without minders, without tape recorders, without bugged rooms. Both of the inspectors focused on this in our private session."

Regarding the amount of time before the U.S. would lead a coalition to disarm Iraq, Powell said, "We're talking weeks."

When asked about France and other countries pushing for more time for inspections, Powell expressed his opinion that some Security Council members "don't want to face up to the obligations that we undertook when that resolution was passed."

Powell noted that Germany, among other nations, has been trying everything to avoid the consequences, including military force, required for the Security Council to disarm Iraq.

Addressing the concerns of France and other Security Council members that have expressed opposition to using force against Iraq, Powell emphasized the successes the U.S. has had conducting military operations in other parts of the world, including Kuwait, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.

"People are worried about consequences, and I understand that anxiety. But there are also going to be positive consequences. This regime, if we have to go in and use military force, will no longer be there threatening the world. Those weapons of mass destruction will be gone. The neighbors will not have to worry about this any more, nor will the rest of the world. And we can then readjust our military footprint, which is a source of some concern in the region."

Powell said that one of the consequences of a possible military operation would be that the Iraqi people would start to benefit from Iraq's oil.

"[T]he wealth of the nation will now go to benefit the people of the nation, and not to weapons of mass destruction, not to threatening your neighbors. That's one of the consequences that could also come out of such a conflict, if it comes to a conflict," Powell said.

Regarding U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia, Powell explained one of the reasons this presence increased significantly after the Gulf War was because of Iraq.

Powell said "in the absence of that kind of regime that we've seen for all these years in Iraq, a new regime that is responsible to its people, has been put in place by its people and is reflective of its people and is living in peace with its neighbors and is trying to build up schools and hospitals and not chemical and biological weapons,

you change the entire situation in the region for the better, and obviously the kind of presence that we have there now would be changed accordingly."

RICE SAYS UN MUST ENFORCE IRAQI DISARMAMENT

Iraq continues to deceive, not cooperate, says Rice
By Howard Cincotta
Washington File Correspondent

Washington -- The UN Security Council must enforce the provisions of Resolution 1441 calling for "serious consequences" if Iraq does not immediately and fully disarm its weapons of mass destruction, according to White House National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice.

Appearing February 16 on NBC's Meet the Press and Fox News Sunday, Rice argued that nations calling for more time are playing into Saddam Hussein's hands. "He's played this game before," she said on Fox News Sunday. "He will continue to try to deceive, and he will continue to try to split the Council."

Sooner or later, according to Rice, the United Nations will have to conclude that Iraq has failed its final opportunity to comply. "The Security Council is going to have to act," Rice said, "or the United States will have to act with a coalition of the willing."

This has not been a three-month process, as some have suggested, Rice said, but a road that the world has traveled for 12 years since the 1991 Gulf War. "It's time for this to end," she said on Meet the Press. "Enough is enough."

Rice said that the United States is discussing language for another UN resolution, but stressed that any new resolution cannot be another delaying tactic, but reaffirm the provisions of 1441.

On Meet the Press, Rice said, "If you want a peaceful resolution to this crisis, the way to get it is not to take the pressure off Saddam Hussein, not to give him the view that he can somehow continue to play cheat and retreat, but to let him know that the Security Council is going to stand united this time, it is going to enforce its resolu-

tions this time, and that he'd better comply and disarm or the world will disarm him."

Rice contended that inspectors are in Iraq only because the Security Council, prodded by President Bush's September 2002 speech, has put enormous pressure on Iraq. "If that pressure releases," she said, "I can assure you that we are not going to get to a peaceful solution."

Rice denied that the current inspections process is working. Iraq filed a false declaration in December, she pointed out, and UN weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei continue to call for greater cooperation.

"They give a little bit here on process, a little bit there to show that a few people can be interviewed in a hotel, which is clearly monitored," Rice said on Fox News Sunday. "But when it comes to answering the tough questions about VX or anthrax, or those mobile biological laboratories, the Iraqis have failed to do that. So they're not cooperating, they're deceiving."

Rice said that the weekend protests against a possible war demonstrate the freedom of expression denied to the Iraqi people. "These are people who are tortured, who are beaten, whose tongues are cut out for saying anything against the government."

Questioned about evidence that Iraqis are cleaning up weapons sites prior to inspections, Rice said that the U.S. had sources confirming Iraqi efforts to frustrate and deceive the inspectors. She also said that the U.S. is continuing to provide UN inspectors with "the highest priority intelligence that they can act on."

However, she said on Meet the Press, "Intelligence is not a substitute for Iraqi cooperation. Let's remember that the purpose of 1441 was not for the world to prove that Saddam Hussein did or did not have weapons of mass destruction. It was for Saddam Hussein to come clean, have one final opportunity to do what the countries do when they want to come clean, which is to say to the world, 'Here's what I have. Come in, inspect it, verify.'"

Looking ahead to a post-Saddam era, Rice said that, if force is necessary, the United States will maintain the territorial integrity of Iraq, provide for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, and work to ensure peace and security in the region.

"The Iraqi people," she said, "having been liberated from Saddam Hussein, have a chance to build a better future."

NASA Releases Image of Early Universe

Captures light from 13 billion years ago in remarkable detail

NASA has released the most detailed image yet of what the early universe looked like only several hundred million years after the Big Bang.

The image was created from a 12-month sweep of the entire sky by scientists using NASA's Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP).

The image can be seen at: http://www.nasa.gov/HP_FLB Feature MAP 030211.html

"We've captured the infant Universe in sharp focus, and from this portrait we can now describe the Universe with unprecedented accuracy," said Dr. Charles L. Bennett of the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland and the WMAP Principal Investigator.

Among the early findings from the data: the first generation of stars in the universe ignited only 200 million years after the Big Bang, much earlier than previously thought.

In addition, the new portrait precisely pegs the age of the Universe at 13.7 billion years old, with a remarkably small 1 percent margin of error.

Following is the text of a February 11 NASA press release:

Note: in the following, 1 billion equals 1,000 million.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Press Release February 11, 2003

NASA today released the best "baby picture" of the Universe ever taken, containing such stunning detail that it may be one of the most important scientific results of recent years.

The new cosmic portrait -- capturing the afterglow of the Big Bang, called the cosmic microwave background -- was taken by scientists using NASA's Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) during a sweeping 12-month observation of the entire sky.

"We've captured the infant Universe in sharp focus, and from this portrait we can now describe the Universe with unprecedented accuracy," said Dr. Charles L. Bennett of the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt Md., and the WMAP Principal Investigator. "The data are solid, a real gold mine."

One of the biggest surprises revealed in the data is that the first generation of stars to shine in the Universe ignited only 200 million years after the Big Bang, much earlier than many scientists had expected.

In addition, the new portrait precisely pegs the age of the Universe at 13.7 billion years old, with a remarkably small 1 percent margin of error.

The light we see today as the cosmic microwave background has traveled for more than 13 billion years to reach us. Within this light are infinitesimal patterns that mark the seeds of what later grew into clusters of galaxies and the vast structure we see all around us.

Patterns in the Big Bang afterglow were frozen in place only 380,000 years after the Big Bang, a number nailed down by this latest observation. These patterns are tiny temperature differences within this extraordinarily evenly dispersed microwave light bathing the Universe. WMAP resolves slight temperature fluctuations, which vary by only millionths of a degree.

Theories about the evolution of the Universe make specific predictions about these temperature patterns. Like detectives, the team compared the unique "fingerprint" of patterns imprinted on this ancient light with fingerprints predicted by various cosmic theories and found a match.

"This is a beginning of a new stage in our study of the early Universe," said WMAP team member Prof. David N. Spergel of Princeton University, N.J. "We can use this portrait not only to predict the properties of the nearby universe, but can also use it to understand the first moments of the Big Bang."

WMAP is named in honor of David Wilkinson of Princeton University, a world-renown cosmologist and WMAP team member who died in September 2002.

WMAP is the result of a partnership between the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Princeton University. Additional Science Team members are located at Brown University, Providence R.I., the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, the University of Chicago, and the University of California, Los Angeles. WMAP is part of the Explorer program, managed by NASA Goddard. Source: Goddard Space Flight Center News.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage **www.usmission.ch**.

Select "Washington File" from the drop-down menu under "News."